

Combination upset by Blues decision

DISMAYED by the refusal of Wycombe Wanderers to stage a fixture with a High Wycombe Sunday Football Combination XI to help raise funds for the Teddy Knott Memorial Fund, the Combination has addressed a letter to the Berks and Bucks F.A., to Wycombe Wanderers F.C. and to the 'Free Press.'

In the letter, Combination hon. secretary Martin Speirs refers to the Wanderers' non-acceptance reply as "poor and uncooperative" and alleges that "this is somewhat typical of the club's attitude towards local football in general."

"It is with regret," wrote Mr. Speirs, "and some considerable concern that I have been instructed to write on behalf of the High Wycombe Sunday Combination concerning a fixture which was in all good faith provisionally negotiated between the High Wycombe Sunday Combination XI and Wycombe Wanderers Football Club.

"The Combination's Chairman Mr. Gordon Summerfield in fact suggested the fixture to the Secretary and Chairman of Wycombe Wanderers and they agreed that in their view it would be a good idea. The basic idea of the fixture would have

been to raise funds for the 'Teddy Knott Memorial Fund.'

"The late Mr. Knott was the president of our Combination and also a former Wycombe Wanderers' player and we therefore felt that under the circumstances Wycombe Wanderers would be pleased to arrange such a fixture.

"As most people are aware Mr. Knott was the treasurer of the Berks and Bucks Football Association for a number of years and indeed devoted a life time of work to football in the two Counties.

"Mr. Summerfield suggested that I should write to Wycombe Wanderers, which I did, confirming the earlier conversation and I quote their reply which I received on November 26:

"Reference your letter of the 14th inst. which was discussed at our recent committee meeting. I have to inform you that we do not feel inclined to accept your offer of a fixture with the Wycombe Sunday Combination XI."

"At a meeting of our Combination Committee the letter was discussed and the committee unanimously stated that in their opinion this was a very poor and uncooperative reply. While I in no way wish to decry any of the performances of Wycombe Wanderers' Football Club both my Committee and myself feel that this is somewhat typical of the Club's attitude towards local football in general. If they are prepared to treat a Memorial Appeal Fund for a former player in such a callous manner then their attitude in general leaves a lot to be desired."

M. A. Speirs,
Hon. Sec.,
H.W. Sunday Combination.

Sore with 'Blues'

WYCOMBE Wanderers, running through a bleak spell in comparison with their two all-conquering championship seasons, need all the support and goodwill they can get.

They ought, then, to take urgent steps to repair the damage that their apparently curt refusal to stage a friendly fixture with a High Wycombe Sunday Football Combination representative eleven may well have done.

Allegations made in a letter to the Berks and Bucks F.A., to Wycombe Wanderers F.C. and to the 'Free Press', sent by Combination secretary Martin Speirs, refer to the Wanderers' action as 'uncooperative,' 'callous,' and as 'typical of the club's attitude towards local football in general.'

There is in the criticism the emotional aspect that the basic idea of staging the game was to raise funds for the Teddy Knott Memorial Fund. Teddy had been president of the Combination, had served football at national level and was a former Wanderers' player.

The club with many commitments, may have had perfectly valid reasons for their refusal of a game and they ought quickly to seek to heal the wound.